



Marine Debris Report – February 2006

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Marine Debris Program & Projects Highlighted in Chesapeake Bay Journal

The NOAA Marine Debris Program was highlighted in a recent Bay Journal article distributed by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The article focuses on the problem of derelict crab pots and nets in the Chesapeake Bay and includes specific references to the "Identification, Mapping, and Assessment of Derelict Fishing Gear in Chesapeake Bay" project that is being funded by the Program. Steve Giordano of the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office was interviewed in the article, as well as Holly Bamford from the Marine Debris Program. NOAA projects in the Pacific Northwest are also referenced in the article. To read the article in its entirety, visit www.bayjournal.com/article.cfm?article=2729

Anacostia Watershed Database and Mapping Project

The Anacostia Watershed Database and Mapping Project held an external meeting on February 1, 2006 to showcase the first draft of the Internet Mapping Server (IMS) project. The meeting was aimed presenting the product to potential partners as well as obtaining comments on how to proceed further. This project has produced the first publicly available online website that provides data on restoration projects, contaminants, sewer overflows, marine debris and trash traps in the Anacostia Watershed, including Superfund and RCRA sites. The next meeting will be held in April 2006. For more information, contact Krissy Rusello at Kristin.Rusello@noaa.gov.

NOAA Marine Debris Projects to be Highlighted in VADM Press Conference in Hawaii

A helicopter based aerial survey project that is currently underway over the Main Hawaiian Islands is just one of the five projects that will be highlighted in a press conference held in Honolulu on February 22, 2006. NOAA's

Under Secretary, Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher is scheduled to speak at the conference, with the backdrop being the successful Port Reception Facility on Pier 38. The significance of this aerial survey project is great, as it is the first-ever effort to address marine debris in the Main Hawaiian Islands. Seema Balwani, of NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Coral Reef Ecosystem Division, comments, "While the issue of marine debris in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands has been addressed for over ten years, little is known about the abundance or impacts of derelict fishing gear on the nearshore ecosystems of the main Hawaiian islands. The time has come for us to increase the scope of our marine debris project and focus efforts on our local shorelines and reefs." For more information on this press conference, contact Carey Morishige at cmorishi@hawaii.edu.

Marine Debris in the News

Marine Debris Issue Highlighted in Honolulu Advertiser

HONOLULU, HI – The most recent arrival of a debris-laden oceanic gyre has people in Hawaii talking. A periodic but regular occurrence, this giant, circular oceanic surface current brings with it loads of marine debris in the form of plastic, derelict fishing gear, and miscellaneous trash. Currents in the North Pacific meet with a high-pressure zone of winds to form the gyre. When this gyre moves southward, it sweeps debris into Hawaii's waters and shorelines. The article in the Honolulu Advertiser focuses on the affect that this debris has on marine life, coral reefs, and the overall aesthetic quality of Hawaii.

The article also highlights the NOAA flights that have been done to identify derelict nets using specialized electronic imaging gear provided by Airborne Technologies, and the idea of placing tracking devices on drifting nets to get a sense of how these nets move in the water. To read the article in its entirety, visit:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060213/NEWS11/602130331/1001/NEWS>

NOAA Office of Response & Restoration Publication Wins Award

A NOAA Office of Response & Restoration (OR&R) publication, *Oil and Sea Turtles: Biology, Planning, and Response*, was selected as one of the "Notable Documents" of the year (2003) by the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) of the American Library Association. *Oil and Sea Turtles* was edited by Gary Shigenaka and contains contributions from Gary, Rebecca Hoff, Ruth Yender, and Alan Mearns. Though targeted primarily to responders to oil spills, this well-written book would appeal to anyone with an interest in the survival of sea turtles, one of the ocean's most intriguing inhabitants. Chapters include the taxonomy and distribution of sea turtles, their life history and physiology, natural and human impacts on turtles, as well as actual spill case studies. Margin annotations help the reader understand technical terms and acronyms used in the text.

The Notable Documents List was established by the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) in 1984. The list was begun to promote awareness and acquisition of foreign, international, state, and local government publications by libraries, and the use of these documents by library patrons. It was also intended to recognize the individuals and agencies involved in producing these excellent sources of information and inspiration. Yearly citations cover documents from the previous two years, so the 2003 Notable Documents List, published in 2004, includes items published in 2002/2003.

This weekly report is distributed by NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration, Marine Debris program. Any questions, comments, or submissions should be sent to Megan Forbes at Megan.Forbes@noaa.gov